

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal adapted to communicate via at least one communications system, wherein the terminal comprises:
 - 5 a transmitter and a receiver for transmitting and receiving signals, respectively, via the at least one communications system;
 - a display capable of visually representing an available bandwidth of a current communications system; and
 - a controller capable of determining the available bandwidth of the current
 - 10 communications system and altering the appearance of the display based on a determination of the available bandwidth.
2. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is further capable of determining a required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the current
- 15 communications system, and wherein the display is further capable of visually representing the required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the current communications system.
3. A terminal according to Claim 1, adapted to communicate via a plurality
- 20 of different communications systems, wherein the controller is further capable of determining the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals, and wherein the display is further capable of visually representing the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving
- 25 signals.
4. A terminal according to Claim 2, wherein the controller is further capable of determining the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals, and wherein the display is further capable of visually representing the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving
- 30 signals.

5. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is capable of separately determining the bandwidth available for signal transmission and the bandwidth available for signal reception, and wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to separately visually represent the respective bandwidths available for signal transmission and signal reception.

6. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth.

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7. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth using a first color corresponding to the available bandwidth.

8. A terminal according to Claim 2, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth and wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the required bandwidth using a second icon corresponding to the required bandwidth.

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9. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the first icon in comparative relation to the second icon such that the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth in relation to the required bandwidth, respectively.

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10. A terminal according to Claim 9, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the second icon in a second color used to indicate a value of a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth.

11. A terminal according to Claim 3, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth.

5 12. A terminal according to Claim 11, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the first icon in a third color used to indicate the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

10 13. A terminal according to Claim 4, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth and wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the required bandwidth using a second icon corresponding to the required bandwidth.

15 14. A terminal according to Claim 13, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the first icon in comparative relation to the second icon such that the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the available bandwidth in relation to the required bandwidth, respectively.

20 15. A terminal according to Claim 14, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the second icon in a second color used to indicate a value of a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth.

25 16. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the controller is further capable of directing the display to visually represent the first icon in a third color used to indicate the type of communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

17. A system comprising:
a first terminal comprising a transmitter and a receiver for transmitting and receiving signals, respectively, via the at least one communications system;
a controller capable of determining the available bandwidth of the
5 communications system utilized by said first terminal; and
a second terminal, responsive to said controller, comprising a display capable of visually representing an available bandwidth of the communications system utilized by said first terminal.

10 18. A system according to Claim 17, wherein the controller is further capable of determining a required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the communications system utilized by said first terminal, and wherein the display of said second terminal is further capable of visually representing the required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the communications system utilized by said first
15 terminal.

19. A system according to Claim 17, wherein said first terminal is adapted to communicate via a plurality of different communications systems, wherein the controller is further capable of determining the current communications system on which said first
20 terminal is transmitting and receiving signals, and wherein the display of said second terminal is further capable of visually representing the current communications system on which said first terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

20. A system according to Claim 17 wherein said controller is capable of
25 separately determining the bandwidth available for signal transmission by said first terminal and the bandwidth available for signal reception by said first terminal, and wherein the display of said second terminal is capable of separately visually representing the respective bandwidths available to said first terminal for signal transmission and signal reception.

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21. A method of visually quantifying bandwidth on a terminal adapted to communicate via at least one communications system, said method comprising:
transmitting and receiving signals on at least one communications system;
determining an available bandwidth of a current communications system; and
5 controlling a display of the terminal to visually represent the available bandwidth of the current communications system.

22. A method according to Claim 21, further comprising:
determining a required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the
10 current communications system; and
controlling the display of the terminal to visually represent the required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the current communications system.

23. A method according to Claim 21, further comprising:
15 determining a type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals; and
controlling the display of the terminal to visually represent the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

20 24. A method according to Claim 22, further comprising:
determining a type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals; and
controlling the display of the terminal to visually represent the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals

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25. A method according to Claim 21 wherein determining the available bandwidth comprises separately determining the bandwidth available for signal transmission and the bandwidth available for signal reception, and wherein controlling the display comprises controlling the display to separately visually represent the
30 respective bandwidths available for signal transmission and signal reception.

26. A method according to Claim 21, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth.

5 27. A method according to Claim 21, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the available bandwidth using a first color corresponding to the available bandwidth.

28. A method according to Claim 22, wherein controlling the display of the
10 terminal further comprises:

representing visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth; and

representing visually the required bandwidth using a second icon corresponding to the required bandwidth.

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29. A method according to Claim 28, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the first icon in comparative relation to the second icon

20 30. A method according to Claim 29, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises:

calculating a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth; and

representing visually the second icon in a second color used to indicate a value of a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth.

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31. A method according to Claim 23, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth.

30 32. A method according to Claim 31, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the first icon in a third color used to

indicate the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

5 33. A method according to Claim 24, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises:

 representing visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth; and

 representing visually the required bandwidth using a second icon corresponding to the required bandwidth.

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 34. A method according to Claim 33, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the first icon in comparative relation to the second icon.

15 35. A method according to Claim 33, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises:

 calculating a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth; and

 representing visually the second icon in a second color used to indicate a value of a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth.

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 36. A method according to Claim 35, wherein controlling the display of the terminal further comprises representing visually the first icon in a third color used to indicate the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

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 37. A method comprising:

 transmitting and receiving signals with a first terminal on the at least one communications system;

 determining an available bandwidth of the communications system utilized by the first terminal; and

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controlling a display of a second terminal to visually represent the available bandwidth of the communications system utilized by the first terminal.

38. A method according to Claim 37, further comprising:
5 determining a required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals with the first terminal on the communications system; and
controlling the display of the second terminal to visually represent the required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the communications system.

10 39. A method according to Claim 37, further comprising:
determining a type of the current communications system on which the first terminal is transmitting and receiving signals; and
controlling the display of the second terminal to visually represent the type of the current communications system on which the first terminal is transmitting and receiving
15 signals.

40. A method according to Claim 37 wherein separately determining the available bandwidth comprises separately determining the bandwidth available for signal transmission by the first terminal and the bandwidth available for signal reception by the
20 first terminal, and wherein controlling the display comprises controlling the display of the second terminal to separately visually represent the respective bandwidths available to the first terminal for signal transmission and signal reception.

41. A computer program product for visually quantifying bandwidth on a
25 terminal adapted to transmit and receive signals on at least one communications system, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program code portions comprising:
a first executable portion for determining an available bandwidth of a current
30 communications system; and

a second executable portion for controlling a display of the terminal to visually represent the available bandwidth of the current communications system.

5 42. A computer program product according to Claim 41, further comprising:
 a third executable portion for determining a required bandwidth for transmitting
 and receiving signals on the current communications system; and
 a fourth executable portion for controlling the display of the terminal to visually
 represent the required bandwidth for transmitting and receiving signals on the current
 communications system.

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 43. A computer program product according to Claim 41, further comprising:
 a third executable portion for determining a type of the current communications
 system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals; and
 a fourth executable portion for controlling the display to visually represent the
15 type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and
 receiving signals.

 44. A computer program product according to Claim 42, further comprising:
 a fifth executable portion for determining a type of the current communications
20 system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals; and
 a sixth executable portion for controlling the display to visually represent the type
 of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving
 signals.

25 45. A computer program product according to Claim 41 wherein said first
 executable portion is capable of separately determining the bandwidth available for signal
 transmission and the bandwidth available for signal reception, and wherein said second
 executable portion is capable of controlling the display to separately visually represent
 the respective bandwidths available for signal transmission and signal reception.

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46. A computer program product according to Claim 41, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to represent visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth.

5 47. A computer program product according to Claim 41, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to represent visually the available bandwidth using a first color corresponding to the available bandwidth.

10 48. A computer program product according to Claim 42, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to represent visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth and wherein the fourth executable portion is adapted to represent visually the required bandwidth using a second icon corresponding to the required bandwidth.

15 49. A computer program product according to Claim 48, wherein the second and fourth executable portions are adapted to represent visually the first icon in comparative relation to the second icon

20 50. A computer program product according to Claim 49, further comprising a fifth executable portion for calculating a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth, and wherein the fourth executable portion is adapted to represent visually the second icon in a second color used to indicate a value of the ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth calculated by the fifth executable portion.

25 51. A computer program product according to Claim 43, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to represent visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth.

30 52. A computer program product according to Claim 51, wherein the fourth executable portion is adapted to represent visually the first icon in a third color used to

indicate the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

53. A computer program product according to Claim 44, wherein the second
5 executable portion is adapted to represent visually the available bandwidth using a first icon corresponding to the available bandwidth and wherein the fourth executable portion is adapted to represent visually the required bandwidth using a second icon corresponding to the required bandwidth.

10 54. A computer program product according to Claim 53, wherein the second and fourth executable portions are adapted to represent visually the first icon in comparative relation to the second icon

55. A computer program product according to Claim 54, further comprising a
15 seventh executable portion for calculating a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth, and wherein the fourth executable portion is adapted to represent visually the second icon in a second color used to indicate a value of a ratio of the required bandwidth to the available bandwidth calculated by the seventh executable portion.

20 56. A computer program product according to Claim 55, wherein the sixth executable portion is adapted to represent visually the first icon in a third color used to indicate the type of the current communications system on which the terminal is transmitting and receiving signals.

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